

# **Categorical Exclusion — Quarterhorse 12kV distribution line**

## **A. Background**

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2013-0117-CX

March 30, 1995 Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy was granted a Right-of-Way (ROW) for a 12kV overhead distribution line. The grant was assigned serial number N-58888. On April 17, 2013, NV Energy submitted an application to amend the ROW to relocate a portion of the power line and a short-term ROW (STR) application for construction purposes. The ROW amendment has been assigned casefile number N-58888/RR/ and the STR has been assigned casefile number N-58888-03.

### **BLM Office:**

Bureau of Land Management  
Las Vegas Field Office  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

LLNVS01000

### **Lease/Serial/Case File No.:**

N-58888/RR/ & N-58888-03

### **Proposed Action Title/Type:**

ROW application to amend N-58888. The proposed project is to amend a portion of the existing 12kV distribution line. The amendment is for the relocation of approximately 150 feet of existing 2/0 overhead primary electrical cable from an existing pole to a new pole on public lands.

### **Location of Proposed Action:**

Located within the southwestern Las Vegas Valley at Blue Diamond Road and Quarterhorse Lane.

### **LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

M.D.M., Nevada T.22 S., R.60 E., sec 20 N1/2NE1/4SE1/4SW1/4NW1/4

### **Description of Proposed Action:**

Description: NV Energy proposes to obtain a 10 foot wide ROW to transfer approximately 150 feet of existing 2/0 overhead primary electrical cable from existing NV energy pole P-83665 to transfer the cable over to new NV Energy pole P-1007441 and related appurtenances. The proposal also includes the request for a 20 foot wide, 150 foot long STR for the purposes of construction. The ROW requested is 10' wide and 150 long for 0.03 acres and the STR requested is 20' wide and 150 long for 0.07 acres.

This is a CX per 516 D< 11.9 E. Realty (12) "Grants of rights-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way." This ROW is located in an area that is highly developed and where there are several other ROW's granted.

## **B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

### **Land Use Plan Name:**

Las Vegas Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP), and the Record of Decision for the Approved Las Vegas Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement.

### **Date Approved/Amended:**

RMP dated October 5, 1998.

**The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions) :**

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable RMP because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s):

Rights-of-Way Management. Objective: RW-1. "Meet public demand and reduce impacts to sensitive resources by providing an orderly system of development for transportation, including legal access to private inholdings, communications, flood control, major utility transmission lines, and related facilities.

Management Direction. Objective: RW-1-h. "All public land within the planning area, excepted as stated in RW1-c through 1-g, are available at the discretion of the agency for rights-of-way under the authority of the Federal Land Policy Management Act."

## **C. Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9, E. (12) "Grants of rights-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way." This ROW is located in an area that is highly developed and where there are several other ROW's granted.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

Comments providing substantive new information relevant to the analysis and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Exhibit A stipulations which are attached to this document.

I have reviewed the plan conformance statement and have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

**D. Approval and Contact Information**



Program Manager  
Power Project Team  
Division of Lands

6.12.2013

Date

**Contact Person**

Cheri B. Woodward, Realty Specialist  
Las Vegas Field Office  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130  
phone: 702-515-5000

Exhibit A  
Stipulations N-58888/RR/ & N-58888-03

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**1.0 Special Stipulations**

- 1.1 Should a desert tortoise enter the area of activity, all activity shall cease until such time as the animal has left the area of its own accord.
- 1.2 Workers will be instructed to check underneath all vehicles before moving them as tortoises often take cover underneath parked vehicles.
- 1.3 All vehicles must be washed (including undercarriages) to remove plant parts, mud, and seeds prior to entering BLM lands. Vehicles must also be washed if they travel through a weed infested area prior to moving to a new area. Do not stage or park in weed infested areas. Weed infestations located on or near construction or staging areas should be flagged and avoided.

**2.0 General Stipulations**

- 2.1. The ROW is issued subject to all valid existing rights.
- 2.2. No signs or advertising devices shall be placed on the premises or on adjacent public lands, except those posted by or at the direction of the authorized officer.
- 2.3. The ROW shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times. Waste materials at those sites shall be disposed of promptly at an approved waste disposal site. "Waste", as used in this paragraph, shall mean all discarded matter of any kind.
- 2.4. Holder shall mark the exterior boundaries of the ROW with stake and/or lath at 100 to 200 foot intervals. The intervals may be varied at the time of staking at the discretion of the Authorized Officer. The tops of the stakes and/or laths will be painted and the laths flagged in a distinctive color as determined by the Holder. Holder shall maintain all boundary stakes and/or laths in place until final cleanup and restoration is completed.
- 2.5. Holder shall conduct all activities associated with construction, operation, maintenance and termination of this ROW within its authorized limits.
- 2.6. Holder shall maintain the ROW in a safe, useable condition, as directed by the Authorized Officer. A regular maintenance program shall include, but is not limited to, soil stabilization.

- 2.7. Holder shall maintain copy of the authorization along with stipulations on construction site at all times. In the event that the public land underlying the ROW encompassed in this grant, or a portion thereof, is conveyed out of Federal ownership and administration of the ROW or the land underlying the ROW is not being reserved to the United States in the patent/deed and/or the ROW is not within a ROW corridor being reserved to the United States in the patent/deed, the United States waives any right it has to administer the ROW, or portion thereof, within the conveyed land under Federal laws, statutes, and regulations, including the regulations at 43 CFR Part [2800][2880], including any rights to have the holder apply to BLM for amendments, modifications, or assignments and for BLM to approve or recognize such amendments, modifications, or assignments. At the time of conveyance, the patentee/grantee, and their successors and assigns, shall succeed to the interests of the United States in all matters relating to the ROW, or portion thereof, within the conveyed land and shall be subject to applicable State and local government laws, statutes, and ordinances. After conveyance, any disputes concerning compliance with the use and the terms and conditions of the ROW shall be considered a civil matter between the patentee/grantee and the ROW Holder.
- 2.8. Within 90 days of construction completion, the Holder shall provide the Authorized Officer with data in a format compatible with the Bureau's Arc-Info Geographic Information System to accurately locate and identify the ROW:

Acceptable data formats are:

Corrected Global Positioning System files with sub-meter accuracy or better, in UTM NAD 83; Zone 11;  
ARCGIS export files on a CD ROM, shapefile, geodatabase.

Data may be submitted in any of the following formats:  
ARCGIS interchange, shapefile or geodatabase format.  
CD ROM in compressed or uncompressed format.

All data shall include metadata for each coverage, and conform to the Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata Federal Geographic Data Committee standards. Contact the GIS Department at (702) 515-5000.

### 3.0 Air Quality

- 3.1. The Holder shall not violate applicable air standards or related facility siting standards established by or pursuant to applicable federal, state, or local laws or regulations. The Holder shall be responsible for dust abatement within the limits of the ROW and is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from appropriate authorities for acceptable dust abatement and control methods (e.g., water, chemicals). The Holder shall be solely responsible for all violations of any air quality permit, law or regulation, as a result of its action, inaction, use or occupancy of the ROW.

Notwithstanding whether a violation of any air quality permit, law or regulation results, the Holder will cooperate with the Authorized Officer in implementing and maintaining reasonable and appropriate dust control methods in conformance with law and appropriate to the circumstances at the sole cost of the Holder.

Prior to relinquishment, abandonment, or termination of this ROW, the Holder shall apply reasonable and appropriate dust abatement and control measures to all disturbed areas. The abatement and measures shall be designed to be effective over the long-term (e.g., rock mulch or other means) and acceptable to the Authorized Officer.

- 3.2. During excavation, backfilling, and contouring, the disturbed soil should be wetted sufficiently in order to effectively reduce airborne dust and reduce soil erosion.

#### **4.0 Cultural**

- 4.1. Any cultural and/or paleontological resources (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the Holder, or any person working on his behalf on public or Federal lands shall be immediately reported to the Authorized Officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the Authorized Officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The Holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation. Any decision regarding suitable mitigation measures will be made by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the Holder. Holder shall be responsible for the resultant mitigation costs.

#### **5.0 Hazardous Material/Pesticides/Liability**

- 5.1. No hazardous material, substance, or hazardous waste, (as these terms are defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, *et seq.*, or the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. 6901, *et seq.*) shall be used, produced, transported, released, disposed of, or stored within the ROW area at any time by the Holder. The Holder shall immediately report any release of hazardous substances (leaks, spills, etc.) caused by the Holder or third parties in excess of the reportable quantity as required by federal, state, or local laws and regulations. A copy of any report required or requested by any federal, state or local government agency as a result of a reportable release or spill of any hazardous substances shall be furnished to the Authorized Officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved federal, state or local government agency.
- 5.2. The Holder shall immediately notify the Authorized Officer of any release of hazardous substances, toxic substances, or hazardous waste on or near the ROW potentially affecting the ROW of which the Holder is aware.
- 5.3. As required by law, Holder shall have responsibility for and shall take all action(s) necessary to fully remediate and address the hazardous substance(s) on or emanating from the ROW.
- 5.4. Use of pesticides shall comply with the applicable Federal and state laws. Pesticides shall be used only in accordance with their registered uses and within limitations imposed by the Secretary of the Interior. Prior to the use of pesticides, the Holder shall obtain from the Authorized Officer written approval of a plan showing the type and quantity of material to be used, pest(s) to be controlled, method of application, location of storage and disposal of containers and any other information deemed necessary by the Authorized Officer.

The plan shall be submitted no later than December 1 of any calendar year that covers the proposed activities for the next fiscal year.

Pesticides shall not be permanently stored on public lands authorized for use under this ROW.

- 5.5. The Holder shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal air, water, hazardous substance, solid waste, or other environmental laws and regulations, existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. To the full extent permissible by law, the Holder agrees to indemnify and hold harmless, within the limits, if any, established by state law (as state law exists on the effective date of the right-of-way), the United States against any liability arising from the Holder's use or occupancy of the ROW, regardless of whether the Holder has actually developed or caused development to occur on the ROW, from the time of the issuance of this ROW to the Holder, and during the term of this ROW. This agreement to indemnify and hold harmless the United States against any liability shall apply without regard to whether the liability is caused by the Holder, its agents, contractors, or third parties. If the liability is caused by third parties, the Holder will pursue legal remedies against such third parties as if the Holder were the fee owner of the ROW.

Notwithstanding any limits to the Holder's ability to indemnify and hold harmless the United States which may exist under state law, the Holder agrees to bear all responsibility (financial or other) for any and all liability or responsibility of any kind or nature assessed against the United States arising from the Holder's use or occupancy of the ROW regardless of whether the Holder has actually developed or caused development to occur on the ROW from the time of the issuance of this ROW to the Holder and during the term of this ROW.

- 5.6. Mineral material generated, and not needed for the development of the proposed action within the ROW site, requires a specific BLM use authorization in accordance with regulations at 43 CFR 3600 prior to the removal of in place excess mineral material. All mineral material needs to be used on site within the ROW or stockpiled on site for sale by the BLM.

## 6.0 Survey Monuments

- 6.1. Holder shall protect all survey monuments found within the authorization area. Survey monuments include, but are not limited to, General Land Office and Bureau of Land Management Cadastral Survey Corners, reference corners, witness points, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey benchmarks and triangulation stations, military control monuments, and recognizable civil (both public and private) survey monuments. If any of the above are to be disturbed during operations, the holder shall secure the services of a Professional Land Surveyor or Bureau cadastral surveyor to perpetuate the disturbed monuments and references using surveying procedures found in the Manual of Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands of the United States and Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 329, Perpetuation of Corners. The holder shall record such survey in the appropriate county and send a copy to the authorized officer. If the Bureau cadastral surveyors or other Federal surveyors are used to restore the disturbed survey monuments, the holder shall be responsible for the survey cost.

## **7.0 Vegetation/Noxious Weeds/Land surface Treatment/Soil/Water/Riparian**

- 7.1. There are no conflicts with any T/E plant species. This project occurs within the designated "low" density zone for cactus and yucca and has been previously disturbed. All cactus and yucca that might be impacted by this action must be disposed of in an off-site trash receptacle.
- 7.2. The Holder shall be responsible for weed control on disturbed areas within the limits of the ROW. The Holder is responsible for consultation with the Authorized Officer and/or local authorities for acceptable weed control methods within limits imposed in the ROW stipulations.

This action will occur within a previously developed/urban setting in the Las Vegas Valley. The potential for noxious weeds to transfer from the proposed project area to BLM managed multiple use lands elsewhere is negligible; therefore, noxious weeds are not considered to be an issue for the proposed project.

- 7.3. Land surface treatment for areas previously disturbed: Following excavation, trenches will be backfilled with the excavated soil. The soil will be distributed and contoured evenly over the surface of the disturbed area. The soil surface will be left rough to help reduce potential wind erosion.
- 7.4. Land surface treatment for areas previously undisturbed: Strip the top three to six inches of soil material with associated plant material over all surfaces to be disturbed by construction. Stockpile this material along the course of construction will be salvaged and transplanted out of harm's way but still within the ROW. At the conclusion, including trench backfilling and compaction, replace the stockpiled soil with plant debris uniformly back on the surface of the disturbed area.
- 7.5. Soil/Water/Riparian: If work is to occur in Ephemeral channels, need to consult with Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) and Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP). If drilling boreholes, holder needs to follow Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) protocols for drilling.

## **8.0 Fish and Wildlife**

- 8.1. There is potential for common wildlife species to be in the general area that may include small mammals, rodents, birds and reptiles. If an individual were to wander onto the project site, direct impacts associated with mortality of wildlife from construction activities or vehicular traffic may result. Wildlife species in the general area are common and widely distributed throughout the area and the loss of some individuals and/or their habitat would have a negligible impact on populations of the species throughout the region.

## **9.0 Migratory Birds**

- 9.1. The project alignment is completely disturbed, denuded of vegetation, and the site is bounded by paved roads, developed and disturbed parcels. As the site is highly disturbed and denuded of vegetation, there will be no impact on migratory birds.



If a project that may alter any breeding habitat has to occur during the breeding season, then a qualified biologist must survey the area for nests prior to commencement of construction activities. This shall include burrowing and ground nesting species in addition to those nesting in vegetation. If any active nests (containing eggs or young) are found, an appropriately-sized buffer area must be avoided until the young birds fledge.

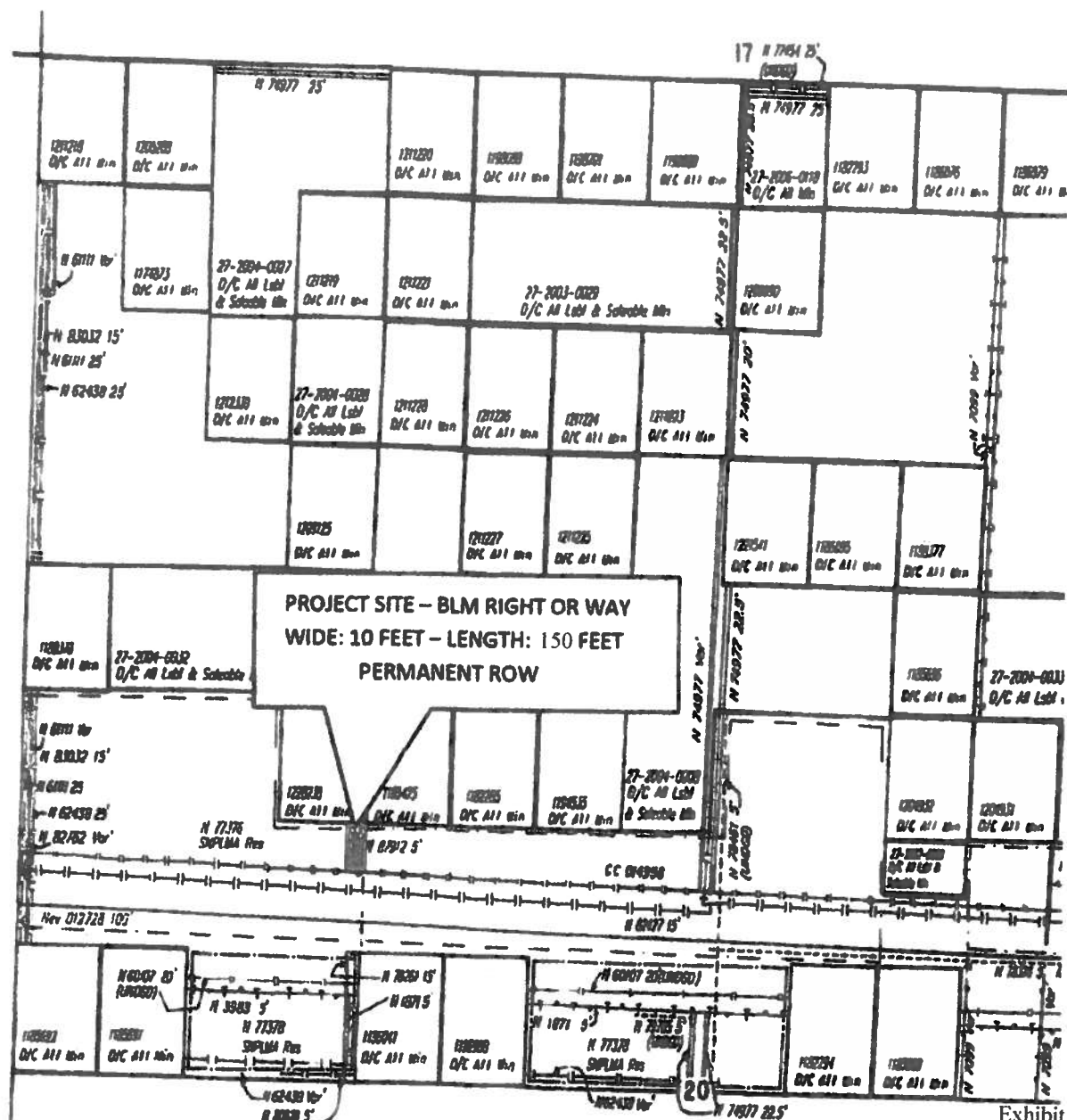
**10.0 Threatened and Endangered Wildlife and Plant Species Stipulations**

- 10.1. The Holder will comply with the terms and conditions of the **Biological Opinion for this project** on file at the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office. Sec 7 Log # NV-052-13-136. No additional paperwork will be provided.

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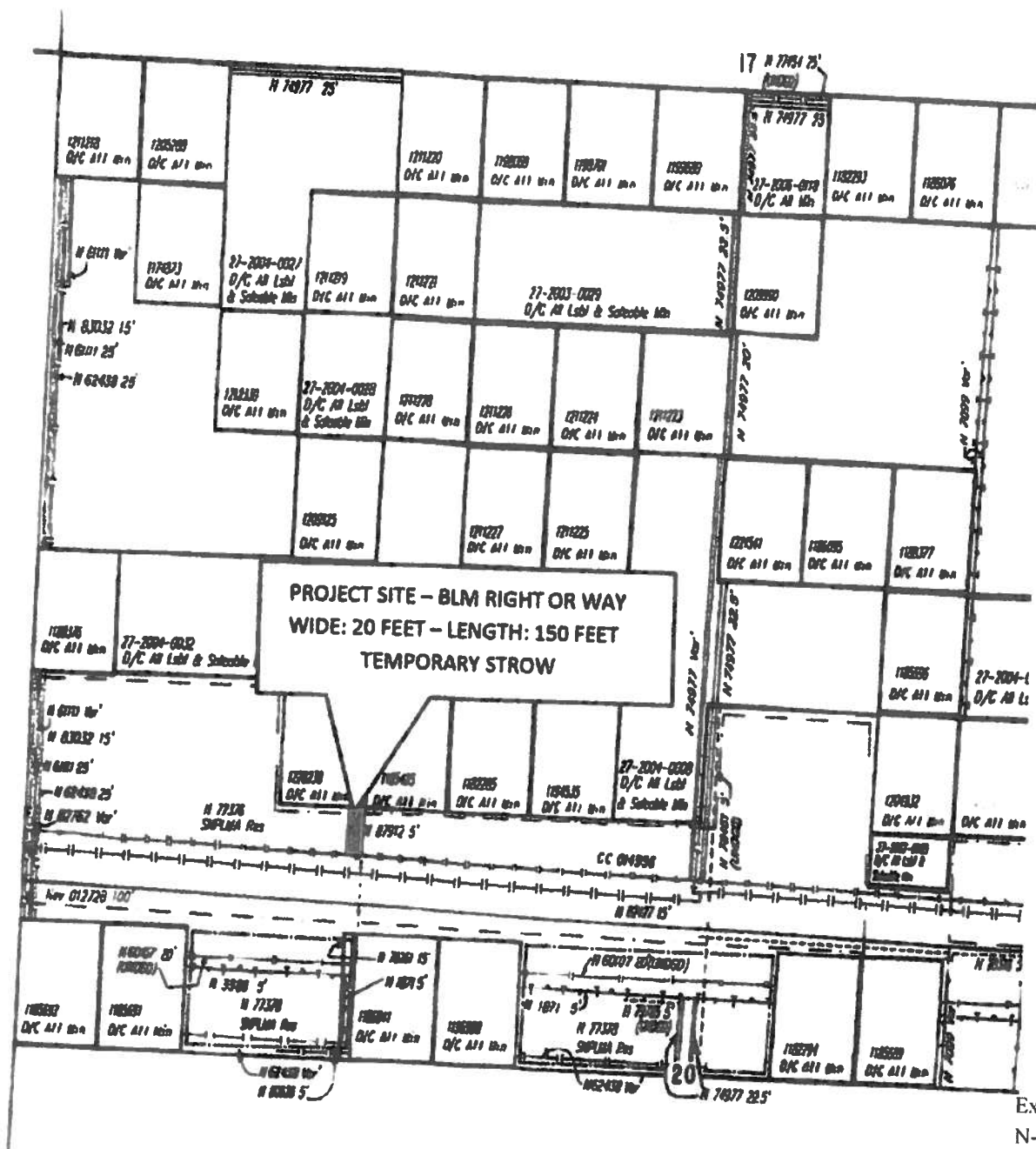
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QUARTERHORSE  
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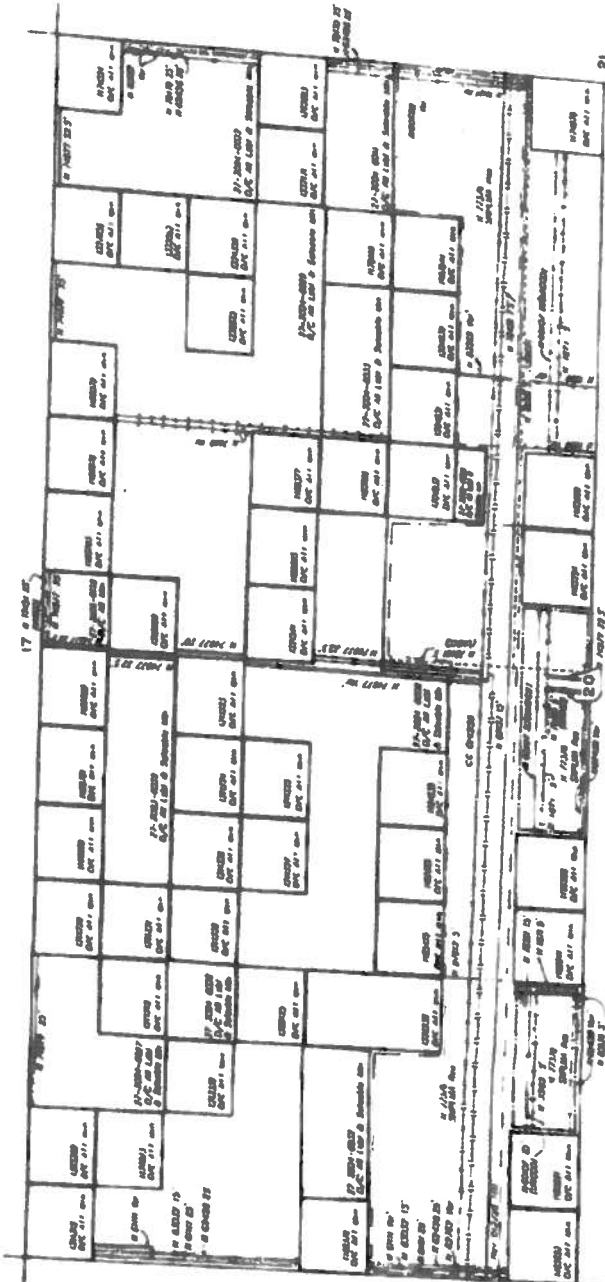
THE NORTH HALF (N½) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE¼) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE¼) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW¼) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW¼) OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 60 EAST, M.D.M., NEVADA.



TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH RANGE 60 EAST OF THE MOUNT DIABLO MERIDIAN, NEVADA

STATUS OF PUBLIC DOMAIN  
LAND AND MINERAL TITLES

MTP  
SUPPL Sec 20



INDEX TO SEGREGATED TRACTS			
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THE ABOVE LISTED TRACTS ARE THE ONLY  
THAT HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM THE  
ORIGINAL LAND SURVEY AND ARE NOT  
RECORDED IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN RECORDS.  
THESE TRACTS ARE NOT TO BE RECORDED IN THE  
PUBLIC DOMAIN RECORDS.

These lands are the property of the U.S. Government and are not to be sold or leased without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. The lands are to be used for the benefit of the people of the United States and are to be managed in accordance with the laws of the United States.

CURRENT TO	BY	CURRENT TO	BY
7/17/11	MS	7/17/11	MS
7/17/11	MS	7/17/11	MS

N-050  
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R. 80 E  
Sec 20  
p 19

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